THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 28, 1807.

HASTY INTERMENT.

HASTY interment is still a prevalent custom in Russia; and even premature burials are said to be not quite unknown. A short time ago the following horrid circumstance was related in St. Petersburg:

A young nobleman, who had squandered away his fortune, found his sister, to whom he applied for assistance, not the least inclined to sacrifice her patrimony to his taste for dissipation. As he considered himself her heir, the wicked thought arose in his breast, to make himself master of her fortune. With this view, he found means to give the unfortunate lady a sleeping draught. She was now considered as dead, and with every appearance of the deepest sorrow, her interment was resolved upon. The corpse was already placed before the altar, when one of her friends happening to pass through the place, was informed of her sudden death. She hurried to the church, where the priest was already pronouncing the blessing over the corpse; and in order to impress the last farewell kiss on the lips of her late dearly beloved friend, she hastened to the coffin. She seized her hand, and found it rather flaccid, but not stiff; she touched her cheek, and imagined she still felt some natural warmth in it. She insisted on stopping the ceremony, and trying whether her friend might not be recalled to life. But all was in vain; neither the brother nor the priest would listen to her solicitations: on the contrary, they ridiculed her as a person out of her mind. Unfortunately, she no where found assistance. She immediately in her anxiety threw herself into her carriage, and hastened to the neighbouring seat of government. Here she found a hearing; proper persons accompanied her to investigate the affair, and she drove back with speed, but found

her friend already covered with sacred earth. The interment had taken place the day before; and the inhuman brother had already obtained possession of her property, while priests and witnesses attested that the unfortunate person was actually dead. Among the Russians it is reckoned to be a heinous sin to dig up a corpse; and thus the desire of the generous friend, for a long time, experienced the most violent opposition, to convince herself of the truth by ocular demonstration; 'till at last the commission of inquiry conceived some suspicion, and insisted on opening the grave, when the poor unfortunate lady was discovered to be suffocated, with her face lacerated, and the impression of her nails in the coffin-lid. The brother and the priest were immediately taken into custody, and confessed their crime. The punishment they underwent is not known.

Particulars of the Liberation of Mrs. Spencer Smith from the French Police, and of her subsequent Flight through Italy, the Tyrol, Styria, Bohemia, Gallicia, Poland, and Livonia.

(Concluded from Page 1010.)

BEING compelled to travel through countries entirely new to me, I observed attentively the manners and customs of the Poles, who at present have almost lost their ancient habits, as their national splendour is decayed, and their country subjugated by the neighbouring powers. One of these is advancing fast to civilization, and seems emulous to deserve the rank of a polished nation. To obtain this end, its people imitate the manners of the French, and resort to theatres where French pieces are acted: the Italian manners and music are likewise followed; and the maritime skill and method of carrying on trade of the English are cultivated; yet the national character still remains.

As I have observed, I was under the necessity of coming to England, a pleasing duty to me, as it fulfilled those wishes which I had always entertained, of visiting a powerful and victorious country, and beholding the prodigious effects of commercial industry, by which the productions of a hundred climates are interchanged, and rendered familiar to all its inhabitants.

In this hope I left Bresk, on my way through the rest of Poland to Petersburgh, whence I intended to embark for London. My desire to gain all the information possible, led me to make the strictest inquiries; but, unluckily, the whole country that I traversed offered no more than a continued scene of misery.

misery. For whole days did I pursue my way without seeing any human being, though the soil was rich in pasture and trees. No mark of industry or cultivation could I perceive; and at the wretched and distant villages, almost every house appeared to be deserted. From time to time, however, the lofty mansions towered to the sight from within the spacious and delightful forest; there the Polish nobles reside, to whom belong the dreary and wide extended plains which I had passed the whole day in crossing. A rich Jew, in the spring, engages for the year, an immense tract of land for the sole purpose of feeding cattle, and providing hay; and expects from it no other benefits than these, there being no hands to be found for cultivating the ground. The lower class, who are slaves, are obliged to serve their master, unless they are rich enough to purchase their emancipation, for a few months or years. It is needless to observe, that while things continue in this state, the country must ever remain destitute of population. Nature herself shrinks at such a dreadful anti-social system. Can men, thus oppressed, look forward to their offspring without feeling the pangs of remorse? and must they not rather curse the connubial bond that gives existence to beings doomed to chains and poverty? Accordingly, what in fact is the population covering an extent of 13,400 square miles? Hardly seven millions of souls, of which three millions are Jews.

The soil of the parts of Poland which I saw, appeared equal in quality to that of the richest countries in Europe. Its neglected state, no doubt, arises from the serious wars in which the powers it belongs to are so deeply engaged, being thus prevented, of course, from directing their attention to the amelioration of a country, of all the north of Europe the most susceptible of cultivation.

However disagreeable the sight of so many sordid Jews was to me in Poland, I could have wished to meet them every where. Without these fallen Israelites, the stranger in Lithuania would find it impossible to travel or even exist; it seemed as if the government itself, the lands, productions, houses, all, in short, were in their possession: without recurring to them, neither food nor horses are to be found. There is no fixed price for the horses; this depends on the will of the Jew; if the travellers thinks it exorbitant, or threatens to enforce justice, the Jew smiles with contempt.

After a journey of several days, I arrived at Wilna; where, on making enquiry for the ladies and children, I was told that Mrs. Smith laboured under a severe illness which threatened her life. Terror and fatigue, in addition to her former impaired state of health, had reduced this lady to the verge of dissolution. Almost every hope was lost; the children were kept from her; and her sister, in the deepest affliction, was unable

to assist or even to look on her: she who had escaped from the grasp of bondage, lay supine at the mercy of all-powerful providence, and was unable any further to resist the laws of nature.

They sent in quest of Doctor Frank, but this celebrated physician had gone to Petersburgh: Mrs. Smith was therefore confided to the care of Dr. Lubenweil. This learned professor of the university of Wilna, in the course of a few days, succeeded in relieving her from the immediate danger of death; and through his unremitting attention and skill, in about a month she was restored to a tolerable condition.

As the month of August was expiring, and any further delay might render the passage of the Baltic difficult, I determined on accompanying the ladies to Riga, there to embark for England, and gave up the idea of visiting St. Petersburgh.

Most of the gentry of Wilna being then in the country, and the university vacant, I was unable to obtain much information relating to the manners of this capital of Lithuania. From the discourse in the few circles there, however, I could find that both the people and nobles were satisfied with the Russian government; which has respected, not only the dignity and rights of the Polish nobility, but also the national customs; and has endeavoured besides to encourage agriculture, and render the condition of the lower class less insupportable. But abuse and fraud still continue, and are, perhaps, even greater than ever: the ancient government of Poland was certainly by no means calculated to extirpate these evils.

I perceived too that what I heard in these respects was true. This city was governed by Russian generals, who were highly esteemed: the nobles considered themselves fortunate in being allowed to retain their privileges; and the people, who were more active than those in any other part of Poland, cherished the prospect which would enable them to purchase their liberty for a few years. Though this administration can conduce but little to relieve Poland from the pressure of a rigid feudality, it no doubt reconciles the Poles to their recent master.

Of all Poland, the Prussian part is the most dissatisfied with its fate, notwithstanding the attention of the king to ameliorating the condition of his new subjects. He has established useful institutions, and abolished many abuses; but the Poles wish for their ancient privileges, and utterly detest these innovations.

The nobles are incensed against the king of Prussia for laying pecuniary impositions upon them, and the clergy consider him as a heretic. Hence it is not surprising that we find many of the Poles acting in favour of his enemy. The Prussian monarch required the exertion of all his wisdom to suppress

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the turbulent spirit of his people, even though he had tried to render their condition more easy. I do not think that the Lithuanians and Gallicians will ever be seen seconding the ambitious views of France, or favouring by secret schemes the conquest of their countries. As the affluence of the nobles depends upon the preservation of the feudal system, it is impossible that they should ever consent to be governed by the laws of Bonaparte, which subvert every antiquated institution of the kind. The Polish gentry will, of course, oppose the French violently.

Having arrived in Courland, and when about a post distant from Mittau, I was obliged to wait two days in a wretched hut, as it was impossible to obtain horses: thus I found both men and beasts were equally scarce. To a Sicilian, like me, it was quite new to perceive the corn still green toward the end of August; this was the case in that part of Courland, so the harvest could not be got in before the autumn was very far advanced. I stopped only a day at Mittau; and the following evening entered Riga, with Mrs. Smith and the Countess Strassoldo. No sight could be more interesting to me, who had beheld nothing for four months but steep mountains, woods, and lonesome plains, than that of an immense river covered with hundreds of vessels and boats, where the people were observed busily employed in shipping or unloading every sort of merchandize, the cries of the active sailors heard as they unfurled their sails for departure, and ships seen entering with their national colours flying. This was a most edifying scene, after having witnessed the distressed condition of the lower orders of the Poles throughout the interior. At Riga all was in motion, the inhabitants of every climate lived here united, interchanging their several commodities, and the stimulus of riches seemed, through the medium of commerce, to give extraordinary animation to each individual. I had been for some time a stranger to such sensations as those which were impressed by the activity of this extensive city.

We immediately exerted ourselves to procure a passage for England; but, as usual, we were doomed to meet with obstacles even in this respect, and were under the necessity of protracting our stay no less than seventeen days, as there was no vessel bound for England.

Through all Poland, and especially at Wilna, the people complained bitterly of the excessive duties on all foreign goods, particularly English. I was told that these frequently amount to half of the prime cost; and the injustice of the custom-house directors was related in the most virulent terms. I heard of an accusation made against a man of probity who had attempted to suppress these measures so subversive of prosperity and industry, and that every effort of the emperor

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to counteract such evils had proved unavailing. I observed, in answer, that every disorder has its attendant symptoms, and that to extirpate all abuses, nothing could be more effectual than entire freedom. These complaints, however, were never made at Riga, though the duties on every article are enormous there also: for the riches produced by its extensive trade with every northern country, render them less burthensome, so that among forty thousand inhabitants, no mark of poverty is to be seen.

At Riga (as is the case in every city inhabited by merchants and bankers), political news is speedily and faithfully received. On the first report of the preparations for hostility between France and Prussia, a rich English merchant gave a splendid entertainment. The history of our escape was already known to many, and such of the gentry as had returned from their country seats, very kindly afforded us repeated proofs of their hospitable attention; besides the nobles, the secondary class were extremely polite.

The Livonians do not like to be mistaken for Russians, notwithstanding their attachment to the government. They preserve the chronological list of their progressive advancement in civilization, which is anterior by far to that of the Russians; and consequently expect a certain degree of deference on account of their antiquity.

We at length embarked about the beginning of September, and in twelve days arrived at Copenhagen, whence, after a short stay, we continued our passage to England, and on the 26th day of the same month, I for the first time beheld the happy shores of that powerful and wealthy island.

The narrative of the marquis, in which he details all the "hair-breadth escapes" which he encountered for a defenceless stranger, does great honour to his feelings; and the remarks on the countries which he traversed, through brief, will, doubtless, be deemed satisfactory, when the rapidity of his journey and the agitation of his mind are reflected on.

THE LETTER-BOX.

No. 16.

To the Editor.

NOTWITHSTANDING the horrible month is past, in which Englishmen are said to hang and drown themselves without either number or mercy, I consider myself bound, by Christian duty, to make my *august personage* publicly known. If we may judge from the general decisions of our coroners, suicide is almost invariably the effect of a temporary delirium,

but I really fear it is too often a deliberate resolution—a premeditated scheme to throw off the burthen of mortality, and all its consequent calamities. People, hurried on by the impetuosity of passion, are the most frequent victims of this despicable crime; and to *such*, I have little consolation to offer; but the sons and daughters of *dejection*, who approach it by an imperceptible gradation of miseries, may (if they apply in due time) receive the most sure and ample relief from their and your humble servant,

A CONJURER.

It is evidently more from the anticipation of future sorrows, than from the anguish of existing ones, that people fly to such fatal extremities. Let them, therefore, know that I can dive into the most profound depths of futurity; that I can give them an exact chart of their journey through life; and, consequently have it in my power (in many cases) to dissipate the gloom of adversity, by extricating the planet of hope from the congregated clouds of sorrow. Yes, Mr. Editor, I have an elixir, a cordial comfort, or (if you like it better) a *comfortable cordial* to administer, that would instantly vanquish the strongest melancholy mania, and restore every romantic desperado to his right and proper senses. I would soon, very soon, prevail on them to

"Beware of desperate steps!"

For as the poet adds,

——————"The darkest day,
"(Live but to morrow) will have pass'd away."

I most earnestly intreat all *lovelorn* swains and shepherdesses in particular, before they hang, drown, shoot, strangle, starve, poison, burn, or otherwise destroy themselves, to send a correct statement of their complaints to the Letter-Box; assuring them, at the same time, that I will do every thing within the reach of magic art, to point out the absurdity of their resolutions, and to convince them that I possess an intuitive knowledge of every thing past, present, and to come. Although I must allow my nostrils to have inhaled the first zephyr of vitality some thousand miles on this side the moon, nevertheless I am endued with such astonishing astronomical acquirements, that I perfectly know the impulses occasioned by the evolution of the heavenly bodies, on the hearts of the inhabitants of this sublunary globe; I am even enabled, on the most trivial inspection of a little finger or great toe, to read the fate of individuals, families, and nations; in fact, of all descriptions of people, from the battered beggar to the pompous peer. The late comet, which has excited the amazement of an incalculable host of loggerheads, has, happily for the advancement of my necromantic

necromantic art, given fresh vigour to my profound speculations, and will ultimately bring my marvellous discernment to a state of insuperable perfection. Though I abominate every resemblance of quackery, I cannot conclude my letter without giving an instance of the veracity of my assertions.

Walking some few months since in the fields, my attention was arrested by a very pretty girl, who appeared in the act of untying her garters. Anxious (though now long past the meridian of gallantry) to witness the event of so strange a manœvre, I stopped short, in silent expectation; when, to my great surprise, I saw the fair damsel approach a tree, with an evident intention of becoming her own executioner. Humanity hurried me to the spot, and on enquiring the cause of her rash resolution, I found it simply to be this:—One Simon Clodpole had long ago, by the language of the eyes, insinuated himself into her good graces; his actions (she said) all tended to convince her of the ardency of his love, but he never once opened his lips on the subject. He sighed and groaned (it was true) most piteously, but that was the utmost extent of his audible affection. In this dreadful state of uncertainty, she was credibly informed that Simon was about to be married to Mog of the Mill; and the report was confirmed by one of Simon's most intimate friends. And so this simple girl thought she could do nothing better to relieve her anguish than to string herself up in her garters. "Let me see your hand, my pretty mourner," said I. She placed it in mine. "Bless me," I continued, "there must be some grand mistake in all this. Mog of the Mill may go whistle for a husband before Simon marries her. Rest assured he loves you to distraction; but, mind me, Sukey, (for so she was called) mind me, and go to church next Sunday, and be sure to put on your best bonnet, with pink ribbands; and make yourself as spruce as possible: and when Simon approaches you, take no notice of him, but direct your chief attention and conversation to all the dapper fellows that surround you." Sukey promised obedience to my commands, and the following letter will give you some idea of the success of the enterprize:—

MY DEERREST DEAR MISS SUCKEE,

Since first I seed your bewtiful blew eyes, I have been torturd with dridful pains in my lift side, and thof I thot it wer the wind collick, and took powers of pipperment water, I am now no longar igurant that it es not the wind collick, nor no other collick but *love*. Oh pitty, Miss Suckee, pitty your expireing swine. I hop when you com to our chirch next, you will leave I esquirt e hom, instead of thick fewlish feller Peter Ploughshare. Love have made I a poit, so that I has rot some

varses on you. Our passon's son says, that Cewped and the mouses allways goes hand in hand, and so I do verily believe; for I never cud rite pottery 'til this pain ded come across my breest. You may think the young passon help'd I out in the varses, but he only aded the words to the end of the 2d and 10th lines, because he sayd, as how they wer'nt long enuff for the meether of the first lines of each stranger.

Lilys and pinks, roses and vylats blew,
Am nothing wen compair'd with you, " you, you."
Nor can the lerk, nor all the burds in the aer,
With my swit Suckee's pretty voise compair.

The flours were Suckee stip'd all dyed,
To see ther bewties all outvyed,
And wen my sweet Miss Suckee sung
The nightingaul did hould hees tung.

Com them deer damzel let me see
If you can smile on me, " me, me."
I hop you will, my darling Sue,
And 'till you do—adew, adew.

I had almost forgat to enform e that we killed our fat sow esterday, and ef as how you can rillish a morsel of bluddymeat, or potts and puddins, don't make no apologis, but come, eat and wellcome.

So no moor at present from your adoreable
admirer,
SIMON CLODPOLE.

But to conclude: though I esteem money, Mr. Editor, as the meanest trash—mere scum of the earth, and far beneath my sublime consideration; yet be it known, that in all amatory consultations I am ready to attend on the following terms. With young maidens and rich widows at 10s. 6d. per hour; with *old maids* at two-pence three farthings! *Their* doom being too evident to need much exertion of my magic erudition. And with all other descriptions of people, as circumstances may fortuitously require. Should any ladies or gentlemen unfortunately lose their horses, or even their *asses*, I will undertake to bring both the stealers and things stolen to the *halter*. Finally, Mr. Editor, to convince you, that my generosity is by no means inferior to my wisdom, I faithfully promise (on condition of your inserting this admirable epistle in your Entertainer) to tell your's, and all your family's fortunes for nothing.

X. FAUSTINARIUS.

Character of Mr. Oakley, a retired Tradesman.

THE father of Cecilia Oakley was bred to trade, and carried on, for thirty years of his life, the business of a grocer in the bustling city of Bristol: he married at the age of forty a woman in his own sphere; and eight years since, he was called from weighing sugar and figs, to receive half a plum, and the estate of Oakley, which were bequeathed to him by the will of a penurious old gentleman, to whom he was very distantly related. Mr. Oakley had but one child, a daughter; his wife had been dead some years, and he left Bristol, and all the noise and employment of his former situation, to become an independent gentleman, and live in the country. He was a man of good principles, and had acquired the title of a fair trader. It is probable, that he never would have been a shining character, had he from his youth received the advantages of a liberal education and cultivated society. Contracted in his notions, reserved and awkward in his manners, and obstinately adhering to every prejudice which custom and habit had impressed on his mind, he was not the character to sit down easy and independent in the country; neither was he the kind of man with whom country gentlemen, independent in principles, with a good many hereditary prejudices stamped on their minds also, could associate with pleasure. Poor Mr. Oakley, soon found, that in toiling to get money, and in the full possession of it, there was a vast difference; and that in his case, the advantages were all in favour of the former. Often he wished himself standing again behind his counter, weighing sugar and figs, and up to the elbows in business, as he passed a long wet day at Oakley, stirring the fire, looking out of the window, or in playing with the parrot, which had been transplanted with its master from the shop to the country.

Destitute of resources, with no taste for any intellectual or refined amusement, with neither spirit nor courage to undertake those manly sports in which his neighbours indulged, perhaps a more pitiable situation could not be met with, perhaps a greater blank could not be drawn in the whole lottery of life, though, in the eyes of common observers, he had appeared to have drawn a capital prize.

Cecilia Oakley was put to the best seminary for female education at Bristol. On the death of her mother, a widowed sister of her father, of the name of Hambleton (who had married a manufacturer of muslins at Glasgow, and who losing her husband had been reduced to a state of indigence), had been sent for to superintend the house of the grocer, and was afterwards removed to Oakley with the rest of the family. The rigid notions of economy and strict frugality had been impressed on the mind of Mrs. Hambleton, by situation and circumstances:

cumstances: the utmost meed of praise to which she had ever aspired, was the term "good house-wife;" and in pickling, preserving, and recipes for cookery, I believe her equal is not to be found in all the country round.

About two years since, Mr. Oakley rendered up his joyless existence. Mrs. Hambleton, by Mr. Oakley's will, is to live with her niece 'till she marries, and then his orders are, that she is to be paid fifty pounds yearly for her life. You stare! and so did Cecilia, at the smallness of a bequest, the only deduction from a fortune of at least three thousand a year. The generous heiress will, of course, make a great addition to it; but Mr. Oakley saw and knew the disposition of his sister, and she will, "in making both ends meet," and living on his bequest with the exactest frugality, be more happy than with an addition to her income: but this small bequest will be amply made up by Cecilia, whose liberal intentions in Mrs. Hambleton's favour, are what duty and principle authorize.

Sir James Mackintosh's Remarks on a quarrelsome Temper, and the other Vices attendant on Drunkenness.

IN pronouncing judgments on Lieutenants Cants and Maguire, in the recorder's court, at Bombay, on April 25, 1807, who were found guilty of a conspiracy to waylay, assault, and otherwise ill treat two Dutch gentlemen of the name of Vandersloot, on the night of the 21st of February last, the recorder, Sir James Mackintosh, addressed them in a most impressive speech:

"It is now my duty (said Sir James) to pronounce the judgment of this court upon you, and I should content myself with a short statement of the nature and circumstances of your offence, if I were not induced to make a few observations, by some faint hope of being useful to you, and by a strong sense of the duty which any man of experience owes to the numerous inexperienced young men such as I see around me, who are deprived so early of parental guidance, and who may see in your deplorable but most instructive example, how easily conviviality may degenerate into excess, and how infallibly habitual excess, with its constant attendant, bad society, leads to such unhappy situations as those in which you now stand. I know that the brutish vice of drunkenness, with all the noisy and turbulent vices which follow in her train, has a false exterior of spirit and manliness, which sometimes seduces weak and ignorant boys. Not that this can be said in this case. A plan for overpowering two defenceless men, under cover of darkness, with more than double their numbers, armed with deadly weapons, can have nothing attractive to any but such as are 'the stain of manhood

and of arms.' But I know that the mischievous character from which such acts spring, sometimes dazzles and allures inexperienced eyes. Let me rub off a little of the varnish which hides from them its deformity. A disposition to engage in quarrels and broils is not, as they may suppose, a mere excess of the martial spirit which is to actuate them on greater occasions. It is the very reverse of it. It is as unmilitary as it is unsocial and immoral. It is an offence against the first principle which holds armies together. It is a violation of that prompt, eager, active obedience to authority, far more necessary in armies than in any other bodies of men, and without which they must speedily degenerate into a ferocious rabble.

"One of the greatest and wisest of men has, in one comprehensive sentence, concentrated every thing that can be said on the relation of an army to the internal order of the state: 'An armed disciplined body is dangerous to liberty: an armed undisciplined body is dangerous to society itself.' Much more is this turbulent disposition inconsistent with the peculiar character of the British soldier. That which distinguishes him not only from a mere ruffian, but from a mercenary slave, is, that he has taken up arms to protect the rights of his fellow-citizens, and to preserve the public quiet. He is an armed minister of the laws, and we expect from him a peculiar affection and veneration for those unarmed laws and magistrates whom he has girt on his sword to guard. Every true soldier must have too great a reverence for the noble virtue of courage, to sully and degrade it in the wretched frays of sottish ruffians. It is reserved for nobler objects; he will not prostitute it on such ignoble and vile occasions. True fortitude is too serious, too grave, too proud a quality, to endure such degradation. Such vices are most unofficer-like, because they are most ungentlemanlike. As long as courage continues to be one of the distinctive qualities of a gentleman, so long must the profession of arms be regarded as the depositary and guardian of all the feelings and principles which constitute that character. A gentleman is a man of more refined feelings and manners than his fellow men. An officer is or ought to be peculiarly and eminently a gentleman. But there is nothing so low and vulgar as the fame of a bully, and the renown of midnight brawls: they imply every quality of a highwayman but his courage, and they very often lead to his fate."

"I was employed in considering the mildest judgment which public duty would suffer me to pronounce on you, when I learned, from undoubted authority, that your thoughts towards me were were not quite of the same nature. I was credibly or rather certainly informed, that you had admitted into your minds the desperate project of destroying your own lives at the bar where you stand, and of signalizing your suicide by the

previous

previous destruction of at least one of your judges. If that murderous project had been executed, I should have been the first British magistrate who ever stained with his blood the bench on which he sat to administer justice. But I never can die better than in the discharge of my duty. When I accepted the office of a minister of justice, I knew that I must be unpopular among the enemies of justice; I knew that I ought to despite unpopularity, and slander, and even death itself. Thank God, I do despise them; and I solemnly assure you, that I feel more compassion for the gloomy and desperate state of minds which could harbour such projects, than resentment for that part of them which was directed against myself. It is my duty to remind you that your despair is premature and groundless. At your age, in a new society where you may not be followed by the memory of your faults, you may yet atone for them, and regain that station in society to which the fond hopes of your unfortunate relations had probably at parting destined you. The road which leads back to character and honour is, and ought to be, steep, but ought not to be, and is not, inaccessible. On the other hand, if any of the comrades of your excesses be present, any of those who have been arrested on the brink of destruction by their penitence, or by their timely fears, or by fortunate accidents, or by the mercy of others, I most earnestly conjure them never to forget the situation in which they this day see you. Let those who stand take heed lest they fall. The declivity is slippery from the place where they stand to that where you lie prostrate. I should consider myself as indelibly disgraced, if a thought of your projects against me were to influence my judgment: that however, I believe, you yourselves will scarcely suppose. The judgment of the court is that you be imprisoned twelve months."

ANECDOTES *of the* COURT *of* PORTUGAL.

THE queen of Portugal has in her possession the largest diamond in the known world, which was sent in the year 1746, from the Brazils to the court of Portugal: it weighs 1680 carats, and is valued by the Portuguese lapidaries at the most wonderful sum of 200,000,000l. sterling. The French lapidaries, who have very great skill in diamonds, as well as great practice in cutting them out of their rough state, value it at 300,000,000 millions of French livres. The English and Dutch lapidaries value it at 56,787,500l. sterling.

The following statement of their respective weights, will shew clearly that all other diamonds at present known are very small, when compared to this:

Carats

Carats in weight. *In whose possession.*

106. A diamond in the possession of the emperor of Russia.
136. A diamond, called Pitt's diamond, in possession of Bonaparte.
139. A diamond in possession of the grand duke of Wurzberg.
279. A diamond in the possession of the great mogul.
493. A diamond in possession of the king of Persia.
1680. A diamond in possession of the queen of Portugal.

The Brazil diamonds are neither so hard nor so clear as the diamonds which are brought from Soulempoir and other places in the East-Indies, nor do they sparkle so much: but they are whiter, and are sold 10 per cent. cheaper, supposing the weights of both sorts to be equal.

The present prince regent of Portugal has in his possession a large star and cross, which he wears on gala days, formed of a great number of large diamonds of the very first water, set in gold. The center diamond in the star is alone worth 800,000l. English; the star and cross are valued at 4,000,000l. sterling.

The diamond mines and the gold mines in the Brazils are of great extent; they were first discovered and opened in the year 1681; since which time they have yielded annually upwards of five millions sterling in value, of which one fifth share belongs to the court of Portugal. The extraction of gold in the Brazils is neither very laborious nor dangerous; it is sometime found on the surface of the soil, and this is the purest gold; and at other times it is necessary to dig for it 18 or 20 feet deep, but seldom lower. Gold is found in larger pieces upon the mountains and barren rocks, than in the vallies, or on the borders of the rivers. The annual revenue of the crown of Portugal collected in the Brazils amounts to upwards of 2,000,000l. sterling. Diamonds to the amount of 600,000l. arrive annually at Lisbon from the Brazils, which are sold in the rough state to the lapidaries in France, England, and Holland; chiefly to the former.

Discovery of an European Colony on the Ohio.

THE name of Zach, the German astronomer, is well known; he is director of the observatory of Seeberg, near Gotha, and he publishes under the title of the Monathliche Correspondentz, a highly interesting journal. In one of the last numbers is a very curious article, of which we shall make an extract for the amusement of our readers, without however warranting

warranting the accuracy or truth of it; and which, indeed, Zach himself does not attempt.

"There is a well-known tradition, that, in the year 1170, Madoc*, son of Owen Giryneth, king of a part of Wales, went into America, with many of his countrymen, and established themselves on the banks of the Missouri. Various travellers, in fact, speak of an European colony, which has preserved the Welsh or Celtic language on the banks of the Ohio; and the following particulars, extracted from a Philadelphian journal will serve to confirm this opinion.

"Maurice Griffith, a Welchman by birth, having been made prisoner by the savages of the nation of Schwanees, went, at the expiration of three years, with a party of five of them to discover the source of the Missouri. They mounted this river for thirty days, after its separation from the Mississipi, crossed spacious meadows, but without discovering any source, or meeting with any game. They killed, however, an animal of nine or ten feet in height. They were very well received by ten different tribes of Indians; and met, in a very fertile part of the country, with three white men, clothed like savages, who spoke very good Welch. Griffith pretended not to understand them: they travelled together for four or five days, and then arrived at the principal settlement of these extraordinary savages. The chief and the principal heads of the nation deliberated for three days upon the fate to which they should be condemned. The fire-arms, and other military weapons which they carried, made them be taken for the spies of some warlike tribe, and they resolved that they should be assassinated. Then Griffith, to the great astonishment of all, and even of his companions, harangued the white savages in the Welch language, and inspired them at once with confidence. The chief gave him his hand in sign of friendship, and our travellers remained eight entire months among these singular people; having abandoned the project of tracing the Missouri, as they were convinced, from what these savages told them, that at the end of a year's march they would find it of the same breadth. Griffith did not find among these American Welchmen any trace of books or written tradition. All that they knew was, that their ancestors came from a very distant country. They had never allied themselves with the other American tribes, and not one individual was to be seen among them of a mixed race. Griffith thought that their population might be about fifty thousand men capable of bearing arms. Their houses are made of staves covered with the bark of trees. All their utensils are armed with sharp stones, because they have

* Mr. Southey has founded his poem of Madoc upon this tradition.

have no iron. Their heaviest ornaments are of silver. Their whole subsistence is derived from the chace. They knew nothing of our cattle.

"Griffith and his companions embarked on the Missouri in a canoe constructed by these people, and descended the river, journeying about twenty leagues a day. They arrived among the Shawnees, after an absence of two years and a half. It was in a party of hunting that Griffith found means to escape from them, and reached the settlement of Roanock, near the mouth of the coalriver. Mr. Child received this account from his own mouth, and Griffith has always passed for a man of truth and probity."

The German editor adds, that Captains Lewis and Clark, who were then travelling in these countries, might, on their return, either confirm or disprove his account of the existence of these white savages.

DANISH LITERATURE.

THE learned have long doubted the existence of a printing-office, said to have been established by the celebrated astronomer, Tycho Brahé, in the island of Huen, or Ween, in the Sound, in the observatory of Uranienburgh, erected for him on that island by Frederick II. of Denmark. The existence of this printing-office is now proved, by the following titles of two works, which Tycho Brahé caused to be printed at Uranienburgh. They are both in quarto, and one is entitled, "De Mundi Ætherei recentioribus Phænominis, liber secundus. Uramburgi in Insula Hellesponti Danic Huena, imprimebat auctoris Typographus Christephorus Weida, Anno Domini, 1588." The title of the other is, "Tychonis Brahé Dani Epistolarum Astronomicarum liber primus. Uranburgi ex officina Typographica auctoris. Anno Domini 1596." In the last work, are found many letters from Tycho Brahé to the Landgrave William of Hesse, wherein he mentions the printing-office, and the paper mills, he had established at Uranienburgh, and in the latter work is an engraving on wood, of the house in which this printing-office was established.

The bombardment of Copenhagen has produced some unhappy effects to literature. Besides several private libraries which have been destroyed, the valuable collection of books, which belonged to Professors Risbrigh, Wolf Kierulf, and Woldike, were consumed by the flames. Three printing-offices were destroyed, with several books and manuscripts of great value; and, among others, Olafsen's Icelandic Dictionary, printed at the expence of the royal academy of sciences.

PHENOMENON *in* RUSSIA.

ON the 13th of March, 1807, in the afternoon, the inhabitants of the canton of Juchnow, in the government of Smolensk, were alarmed by an uncommon loud clap of thunder. At the moment of this explosion, two peasants belonging to the village of Peremeschajew, in the canton of Werreja, being out in the fields, perceived at the distance of forty paces, a black stone of considerable magnitude, falling to the earth, which it penetrated to a considerable depth beneath the snow. It was dug up, and found to be of an oblong square figure, and of a black colour, resembling cast iron. Its surface was very smooth, shaped like a coffin on one side, and weighed about one hundred and sixty pounds.

ANECDOTES *of* GENERAL LINIERS.

THIS officer, whose name is Jacques de Liniers, was born at Niort, the capital of the department of Deux Sevres, on the 25th of July, 1753. He is the son of M. de Liniers, formerly an officer of the marines, by Mademoiselle de Bremond. His family is allied to the first houses in Poitou, as well as to those of Lastie and La-Rochefoucauld. In 1765, M. de Liniers was appointed page to M. de Ximenes, grand master of Malta. In 1768, he became sub-lieutenant in the regiment of cavalry of Piedmont. In 1774, he entered into the Spanish service, on the invitation of the duke de Crillon, and under the auspices of the grand master of Malta. In 1775, 1776, and 1777, he was employed in the expedition against Algiers, and in that which went out to South America. In 1780, serving in the fleet of Admiral Louis de Cordova, he contributed to the capture of an English privateer; and at the siege of Mahon he took a large ship under the fire of Fort St. Philip. In 1782, being at the siege of Gibraltar, as second under the prince of Nassau, on board the floating battery La Talla Piedra, he swam off, and seized a boat, in which all those were saved who were able to escape from the praam, which was shot full of holes, and immediately afterwards sunk.

He married, in 1783, at Malaga, Mademoiselle de Menville, a lady of French extraction, who died two years after. In 1786, he was sent to South America, with the rank of captain of a ship, and was charged with the demarkation of the boundary between Paraguay and Brazil. In 1796, he placed gun-boats at the mouth of the Plata. Lastly, he commanded, under the viceroy, the forces of his catholic majesty in South America, at the time of the capture of Buenos Ayres by the English.

Answer, by W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater, to J. Trood's Rebus, inserted the 26th of October.

ACHOUGH, Sir, will, I think, make out
The well-known bird you wrote about.

†§† Similar answers have been received from John Woodman, of North Curry; and W. D. of Bristol.

Answer, by R. M. Giffard, of Castle Cary Academy, to J. A. Dyer's Rebus, inserted November 2.

NOVEMBER, Sir, will make appear
A gloomy season of the year.

† Similar answers have been received from J. Trood, and W. D. Champion, of Bridgwater; an officer of the customs; R. Loosemore, and J. Joyce, of Tiverton; G. A. F. Arden, and S. D. of South Petherton; J. Whitnell, of Street; H. Ellis, of Exeter; T. Coumbe, and J. Colley, of St. German's; W. King, J. Horsey, and Saull, of Castle Cary academy; W. D. of Bristol; S. Reed, of Hinton St. George; Luna, of Membury; John Woodman, of North Curry; and G. Spry, of Egg Buckland.

A CHARADE, *by T. Gill, Officer of Excise, near Wells.*

MY first, as ancient poets feign,
Was god among the heathen train;
My next you'll do, I make no doubt,
Before that you can find it out:
My whole to you will make appear
A place where oft is found good cheer.

A CHARADE, *by S. Paull, of Castle Cary Academy.*

MY first's in palaces of state;
My second dwells in dust;
My second's lord in his estate,
To what you see my first:
Beware, my friends, my dangerous whole,
Of this vain world it worm the soul.

A REBUS, *by W. D. of Bristol.*

MAY e'er my first, with reverential awe,
Adore his God, and venerate his law!
Within the bowels of our mother earth,
My next is found, a metal of known worth;
Within that book, which Christians sacred hold,
My first-born next you'll certainly behold;
My toiling last, with me you will agree,
A faithful emblem is of industry;
Sagacious youths! well skill'd in mystic lore,
To solve my whole a trav'ller you'll explore.

☞ *Communications of which the postage is not paid will be rejected.*
† *Several articles are omitted on account of their inaccuracy, or their want of novelty.*

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

Lines on Northernhay, a much-admired public Walk in Exeter.

SWEET Northernhay! thou strik'st th' enraptur'd sight
With beauties, ever yielding fresh delight;
Here the tall elm lifts high its towering head,
And bends its boughs to form a perfect shade.
Oft have I rov'd with pleasure in thy bowers,
Charm'd with the little warblers pleasing powers,
Who hail, in joyous notes, the rising day,
And pass with melody the hours away.

Luxuriant foliage clothes the vale below,
Throughout whose pastures murmuring riv'lets flow;
But here, alas! a scene attracts the eye.*
Where oft the culprit heaves the plaintive sigh,
Condemn'd within a prison's gloom to dwell,
And feel the horrors of a dreary cell;
A prey to misery, and wan despair,
And torn by the corroding stings of war.
But hark! the trumpet echoing thro' the air,
Denotes a valiant band of soldiers near;
The noble barracks stand confest to view,
Their structure handsome and capacious too;
With magazines well fill'd with warlike stores,
And all that's wanted to defend our shores.

A spacious building here we may behold,
Where once stood Rougemont Castle, fam'd of old,
(Tho' now the place where justice holds her seat,
And makes the guilty tremble at her feet.)†
Whose antique turrets now are plainly trac'd,
Which changing time has not yet quite defac'd;
Besieging Danes found here a potent bar,
Impeding much their progress in the war;
Rougemont withstood an hostile rank of foes,
Appall'd th' advent'rer who would dare oppose;
And should proud France attempt t' invade our coast,
Within these walls we have a British host,
A British host who gallantly would stand
In freedom's cause, to guard their native land.

To thee, sweet Northernhay! the blooming fair
Of Exon's ancient city oft repair,
To catch the fragrance of an evening breeze,
Which gentle zephyrs waft between the trees:
And when bright Sol emits his scorching heat,
Within thy shades they find a cool retreat.

Delightful spot! thy beauties to define,
Requires an abler pen by far than mine.

HENRY ELLIS.

Exeter, December 7, 1807.

* County gaol. † County sessions-house.

RE-

REFLECTION.

LORD! what a wond'rous work is man!
Who, vain with intellectual might,
Would grasp creation in his span,
And bring thine hidden ways to light.

Fierce o'er his head the lightning plays,
And darts its fatal fires around;
His hand arrests the arrowy blaze,
And hides it harmless in the ground.

The calm sea smiles, light breezes play,
He sees his ready sail unfurl'd,
Led by the pole-star on his way,
He finds far hence another world.

The wild winds rise, the uplifted wave,
Of ocean sounds from shore to shore;
His fragile bark of power to save,
Shall bear him to his home once more.

On silken wing upborne he flies;
Vapours and clouds and storms remove,
Below their dark pavilion lies,
And heaven serenely smiles above.

And live these powers but for a day?
And do they with the body grow,
In manhood strong, in age decay,
Then perish in the dust below?

Towers, temples, pyramids may raise
Their lofty foreheads to the skies,
Bask in the sun's meridian blaze,
Or rich with evening splendour rise.

Towers, temples, pyramids must fall,
And man, their builder, pass away;
Oblivion! soon thy shadowy pall
Shall shroud them from the eye of day.

Yet still that spark of heavenly fire,
That germ of intellectual might,
Tho' systems end, and suns expire,
Shall live in everlasting light.

END OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH VOLUME.

James Langdon, Printer, Sherborne.

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FORTY-SEVENTH VOLUME

OF THE

Weekly Entertainer.

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